

# TheLight

Issue 222 September 2018

**Broomhedge  
looks to the  
future**



**‘Get up and walk’ - the Romania Team**

**Michaela Johnston**

**In USA with the Ulster Project**

**Priesthill GB tribute**

**Shirley’s 2018 Seymour Street Trip**



THE MAGAZINE OF THE LISBURN AND DROMORE METHODIST CIRCUIT

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*Cover Photo: 2018 Refresh  
team and children on Roseville  
Green*

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2018

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# EDITORIAL

You will note a few changes in the design of this issue of the Light. Printing technology is always moving on and so we can economise on costs by moving down to the more standard A5 page size, but keeping the same amount of material by increasing the number of pages from 16 or 20 to 20 or 24. We can now also adopt full colour printing throughout which will give the scope to incorporate more attractive design elements.

I make no apologies that this edition of the Light features the activities of young people on so many of the pages as it is great to see young people benefiting from the opportunities to put their faith into action in a wide range of contexts, and it is an encouragement for us all to read about it.

I know there are many others we could have heard from such as Anna and Andrew who have had such a great year on the TOM team and others who provided leadership at Castewellan Holiday week, and SU camps. Hopefully we can hear from more in future editions, and as Editor I am always happy to receive contributions from across the whole of our Circuit.

The Rev Ross Harte was to have written an article for this issue but due to the recurrence of the serious illness of their son Timothy this had been postponed. As this is being written the Harte family remain in Bristol where Timothy is being treated and our prayer is that the course of treatment will lead to a successful outcome and a healthy and happy future for him.

## ORGAN-IC

**Seymour Street**

**Saturday 6th October at 7.30**

**Roll up, roll up to a night to celebrate the installation of the newly refurbished organ in Seymour Street Methodist.**

**For over a hundred years this fine instrument has supported worship in our wonderful church building. Come on Saturday 6th October at 7.30 to hear this newly revitalised instrument put through its paces for an evening of sacred and secular music.**

**Enjoy a tasty supper whilst after listening to some of the best organ music, singing some of our finest hymns or enjoying the singing of our choirs.**

**This will be a whole feast of musical delight. Seymour street now has arguably one of the finest instruments in the country. Bring your friends and celebrate together as we look forward to the next hundred years.**

# 'ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE'

**Rev Dr Edmund Mawhinney**



These words are from a Beatles song and highlight what has been variously described as 'the most devastating malady of the age' and 'one of the greatest problems of 21<sup>st</sup> century society' and also an issue which needs to be prominent on the church's pastoral agenda.

Loneliness is much more common than we may imagine. Most have felt it at some time, but few talk about it. It isn't only confined to those who live alone. It can affect those who are single, married, with or without children, and people who have friends. The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness set up by the Labour MP before she was brutally murdered in 2016 concluded in its report that 'each and every one of us' needs to be aware of the problem. It is no respecter of persons. Albert Einstein, a giant of science, once admitted: 'It is strange to be known so universally and yet to be so lonely'.

Loneliness is a feeling of inner emptiness, which involves restlessness, a sense of isolation and a desire to be wanted. Lonely people feel left out and rejected, even when they are surrounded by others.

It is not to be confused with solitude. Solitude is a state of being geographically alone. Loneliness is a state of being spiritually alone. Wise people know that solitude is good for us and that we need it at regular intervals. Thomas a Kempis wrote: 'It is proper and beneficial sometimes to be left to thyself'.

Our concern is not with solitude, but with those who feel isolation and long for the companionship of other people, even when they may be geographically close to others. Human contact is very important and where

it doesn't exist can have a detrimental effect on the health of mind and body. Sometimes today when we refer to keeping in contact it's not real living contacts we're referring to but impersonal links by means of social media. Important and useful as these new means of communication are, sending a virtual 'hug' to someone who needs us is not quite the same as sitting face to face with the person listening and sharing experiences.

## **Loneliness can be experienced by the older person.**

Loneliness among those who are growing older is increasing and society and the church always need to be concerned about provision to ease it.

A sad picture of loneliness is that of the elderly person who has outlived contemporaries and been forgotten by relatives. The younger generation has moved away from their area. The neighbourly structure of former days has disappeared. The elderly person becomes isolated, fearful of the present and the future, and unable to cope with modern bureaucracy.

Even when they are not ill or immobile, some elderly people can be made to feel that their ideas are old fashioned and begin to feel that they are in the way.

## **Loneliness can be experienced within families.**

Young people can feel lonely at home. Parents too can feel that they can no longer communicate with their children. The language and thoughts of both groups move on different levels. We speak of the



# **'I am with you and will keep you wherever you go'**

## **Genesis 28:15**

generation gap, and sometimes think it never happened before until it happened to us. In the Bible Saul never understood Jonathan and David, although a fine king in many respects made a bit of a mess of bringing up Absalom.

Some recent data suggests that young mothers might be the loneliest of all and a study by the Office for National Statistics found that nearly one in ten people under 24 say that they are often or always lonely. This is a higher figure than for those over 65. There is evidence that increasing use and reliance on social media contributes to this loneliness. Some can become dependent on the approval of contacts online and feel lonely if they have to go for any length of time without a 'like'.

Within this network of family relationships we should not forget the possible loneliness of the divorced, the deserted, the single person, the orphan, the single parent, those who feel excluded, and that caused by unemployment, prolonged illness or death.

### **Loneliness can be experienced by the leader and the prophet.**

Leadership of the country, the managing role in business, the principal's position in a school, the head of an organisation, or leadership in the church can be lonely positions. When you know that the buck stops with you the summit can be a lonely place.

There are also times when it's necessary to speak out or stand up for some right cause which may produce opposition and create a sense of isolation.

Jeremiah was called by God to say unpopular things about the political events of his time. He called down on himself the fury of the establishment. He was a sensitive man, and this hurt him deeply. Once he

cried out: 'Is there any agony like mine?'

### **Loneliness can affect us all**

Loneliness affects us in different situations and at different times of our lives. Any one of a number of hard experiences in life can contribute to it.

Within a framework of good pastoral care the church can help ease a sense of loneliness by its provision of luncheon clubs, groups for young mothers and their children and the fellowship found in many of our other groups like bowling clubs, fellowship groups and so on. The church should also try co-operating, where possible, with others in the community to provide resources and opportunities for interaction between people and even having the foresight to see where there may be gaps in the provision.

Not everyone will see the benefit of a spiritual response to loneliness but for the person of faith a spiritual answer is very helpful. It is found in the presence of God and in the strength of Christian fellowship. Some of the great promises of the Bible are those that assure us of God's presence. It was God who was with Joseph when he went down as a lonely slave into Egypt; it was God who reached out to Elijah in his black despair. Isaiah was reminded that when he passed through the waters, God would be with Him. Joshua was reminded: 'Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go. From Jesus we have the greatest of all the promises: 'I will be with you always, even to the end of the age'. These are not empty words but promises which many have found to be true.

One lady who lived alone, suffered from arthritis, but carried on a wide correspondence of encouragement with others, said: 'I am nearly always alone, but never lonely'. She had learned to cope with loneliness and had found the heart of religious faith. ●





# Priesthill Girls' Brigade pays tribute to Alison Rutherford



The officers and Captain of Priesthill 99th Company

In March Priesthill Girls' Brigade paid tribute to retiring captain Mrs Alison Rutherford at their annual display. Alison has served as Captain for 11 years and has been a faithful member of the company since childhood. Alison has led in a quiet, diligent manner working tirelessly to make the programme at Priesthill G.B. Christ centred and relevant to the needs of the girls today. Her husband Glen has supported her by offering his technical skills and (in addition to many) by providing delicious suppers at the annual officers' planning meeting in their Lurgan home.

The officers, many, lifelong friends will miss her dearly as she serves in pastures new. Past members and two previous captains attended the display. Presentations were made by members

of the company and Priesthill church council. Tributes were given by officer Denise Matthews and Chaplin Rev. Mervyn Ewing.

Mrs Katherine Patton, a member of the company for many years and officer for 5 years will replace Alison as Company Captain in the next G.B session.

At an informal meal in May the officers presented Alison with a montage of photos over her time in Girls' Brigade. Alison will be sadly missed however we know she will continue to remain in contact and support the company as she hands the reins over to Katherine. We, as a church will continue to support the company and new captain in fulfilling the Girls' Brigade motto: 'To seek, serve and follow Christ'.●

Alison with new Captain Katherine Patton (1st left in red), Alison Rutherford, previous captains: Ann Brown (2nd from right) and Sylvia Adams (far right)



Alison Rutherford with her husband (Glen) and daughter, Rachel

Captain Alison Rutherford (left) with Explorer Leader Victoria McCready (right)



Informal meal with officers at the Belmont Hotel, Banbridge and Photo Montage Presentation



Presentations from Margaret Stewart (left) and Denise Matthews (right), Alison (centre)

# Seymour Street Men's Outing to Windsor Park

Pete Livingstone

Recently Seymour Street's Men's Fellowship group had a tour of the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park. The Stadium has undergone a complete transformation in recent years and is now a fitting home for the International Men's and Women's teams and well as home to the most successful team in domestic football in Ireland, North or South (Editor - Warning the writer is a Linfield fan!)

As part of the new Stadium the Irish Football Association has created an Education and Heritage Centre which tells the unique story of Northern Irish football using a varied range of media, immersive physical interactives and key artefacts from the 1880s to the present day. The self-guided tour of the centre took around an hour and includes many highlights including; The British Home Championship Trophy won in 1984, a set of turnstiles from the old stadium, many artefacts and memorabilia from local and international games, and a model showing the development of the Stadium over the last century. The younger (and some not so young!) members of the group enjoyed very



much the interactive penalty shootout display against Pat Jennings and learning about the local man that invented the penalty kick.

Before heading out on the tour with our guide we watched a video presentation on Northern Ireland's success throughout the years with focus of course on the recent stunning results against England, Spain, Sweden and the 2016 Euros in France.

The next part of the tour was around the stadium and we got access to all of the areas such as player's changing rooms (did you know that the Stadium has 2 sets of Home Changing rooms for the Northern Ireland and Linfield teams!), showers (including some very cold looking ice baths), physio room, media centre which is named after Malcolm Brodie, the tunnel and of course the pitch. We were given the opportunity to try out the manager's hot seat pitch side and to view the stadium from the media area at the top of the South Stand.

We also got into the room where the team would have the press conference, and to amble the atmosphere from inside the VIP lounge. The tour of the stadium also lasted an hour and was made really enjoyable for both young and old by our guide who was fun, really knowledgeable and allowed to take photos in every part of the tour. The tour is now one of the highest rates 'Things to do in Belfast' on TripAdvisor and is definitely to be recommended - even to the casual football fan.

No men's outing is complete without a stop for ice-cream and coffee at the 'yellow arches' and a satisfied group is looking forward to the next event. ●



# GET UP AND WALK

**Michaela Johnston shares the experiences of the Seymour Street Romania team this summer**



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It was an absolutely incredible experience for each of us, and one which is difficult to fully express in words alone but we would love to be able to try and capture a little piece of it here.

When we arrived in Romania we met with 3 other teams in Sutor, all from Northern Ireland, who had travelled to Romania to bless the people there in the name of Jesus.

## The experience of Base Camp

In Sutor we learned about cultural differences, how to run kids clubs, what home visits would be like and also worshipped together. We also experienced Bush Camp so that we could feel what it would be like to walk to suffer injustice. We experienced a snippet of what life would be like for the persecuted church in Afghanistan by being stripped of all luxuries, and left only with a sleeping bag, and basic supplies of wood and



tarpaulin for shelter. We ate awful food and learned how to cope under extreme leadership.

We were pushed out of every comfort zone but in those 24 hours we learned about strength and reliance - not only on each other but on God.

## Getting down to work

Our project was based in Cluj-Napoc in partnership with

Tokoz Reformed Church. We ran a kids club each morning from 10am until 2pm with about 25 kids aged between 8 and 14. We played games, sang songs together, worked on a bible and a memory verse before having lunch together.

## Home visits and practical work

In the afternoons we spent our time doing both home visits and practical work. All the practical work we completed was within the grounds of the kindergarten which is owned by the church and where we were staying. We cut grass, fixed equipment, repaired, sanded and painted fences and



generally made the environment a much safer and more pleasant place for children to spend their day.

Alongside this practical work, each day we would go out and visit people in their homes who are known to the church as being in need. This was one of the most challenging but moving experiences our team had, as we were brought into the lives and stories of people who now hold a massive place in our hearts.

Some stories were heart-warming others were heart-breaking but each and every one of them was a story of someone who needed a little bit of love and whose life God at work in. It's hard to capture all the stories of the people we met and ministered to in a matter of words, but examples are of people paralyzed, or displaced, or had everything taken from them, carers of those with severe physical and mental illness, the housebound, elderly and the lonely.

It isn't difficult to see from that small insight how much these visits mattered to people and even though we showed up at their doors with a food parcel as a way to bless them, in actual fact it was our presence and more importantly the presence of God that was the real blessing.

Spending time praying with people and ministering hope into their situation is a blessing that runs much deeper than a physical gift could ever bring.

## Our personal journeys

No two people on our team journeyed the same way. Each of us went on our own journey in Romania, it was emotional, challenging, strengthening and life changing. We all had different highs and lows and we all learnt different things. Each of the 9 of us on the team saw God in many different ways and heard him in a hundred different voices. Snapshots of some team members are on the next page. For me I couldn't possibly pick a best bit but I do know that Romania was a journey - an incredible journey. It was a journey in which God taught me a lot about stories -and freedom.

We were staying in a city, in an area in which the rich can get richer but the poor are stuck. This left very conflicting ideas in my head at times. It's hard to imagine as you are walking down a street and can see a massive shopping centre or beautiful government buildings, how you are best being used with the people here? How could they possibly be in need? Shouldn't



## Kate

*My highlight was being able to do Gods work while bonding and becoming closer with the people on our team. I saw God move in the way we were able to bring the confidence out in the children throughout the week and how he gave us energy to get through the whole week. I learnt not to worry about anything because God is always one step ahead and is always there to guide us. In order to fully know God and to serve Him we must let go of anything that is holding us back.*

## Jane

*The best part of Romania for me was meeting Elizabeth who was one of our home visits. She was so happy and loving. Regardless of her illness she was so joyful, a real inspiration. I think I saw God move the most amongst our team as we really had to lean on His strength and energy. I could see how God was moulding each of us, developing our confidence, challenging us and teaching us all so much as a team and individually. God taught me that His timing and His plan is so perfect. He really is all around and should never be underestimated.*

## Dave

*I absolutely loved Bush Camp and the home visits. Seeing the changes in the teams spiritual growth as the week went on was amazing and I learnt that it's the same poverty spirit but just in a different culture.*

## Jessica

*The best part of Romania for me was definitely seeing how much of a difference we made by doing such small things. Just visiting someone in their home made a huge impact. I was able to see God move through the closeness we developed as a team through the shared love of God. While I was there I learnt that to appreciate every single thing that is given to us by God because it is always good and always perfect.*

## Lucy

*The best part of Romania was definitely the home visits. Most welcomed us into their homes with smiles that lit up their face. They were so joyous and thankful that we took the time to go and see, speak and pray with them - and of course bring them food parcels. One of our translators, Ákos gave his life to Christ just recently. He sent a lovely message saying how our team's kindness and love for God really encouraged him. I learnt that God is always looking out for me, even when I don't feel like he is (aka Bush Camp). As tough as Bush Camp was, after some thorough talking through I realised that for me, it was the best thing that could've happened. It made me realise not only how much I care for everyone on our team and how much stronger it made us but also how caring and mighty our God is.*



we be with the poor people? Will God really move in life changing ways?

But then when you walk up to the door of a person's house you are going to visit that day, you suddenly realise that just because they live near a shopping centre, does not mean that they can afford to shop there, does not mean they have windows in their house, food in their cupboards, does not mean they aren't isolated from their community, does not mean God will not move.

We are very quick to judge someone else's story from an outward appearance. We are told from a young age to never judge a book by its cover, but we all do it, even if we don't realise we are.

God challenged me that everyone has a story. Some peoples make better reading than others, some end happily, some not so much - but they belong to them, and they belong to God!!

*my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."*

Despite the preconceived ideas of this woman's story - God still moved! Despite my preconceived ideas of Cluj - God still moved!

Everyone has a story, we have to own our own, accept other peoples - and watch God move! For nothing is impossible with Him. We find the richest blessings in being faithful to His calling no matter what the story.

I also learnt a lot about freedom. One of the houses I visited in Romania was the house of a woman called Isobel When we first arrived we knocked and knocked the door but there was no



In Luke 7:36-50 we read the story of a woman who washed Jesus' feet. This woman was judged because of who she was; by her actions and status in society, by her story - but Jesus calls them out on their judgement.

*"Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for*

*answer. We knew someone was home because we could hear them but we couldn't get inside. We left to visit another family and decided to try again on the way home. It was only then that I fully realised why there had been no answer before. The woman we came to visit was paralysed. She spent her days in bed, with no access to the outside world. She relies on her husband to answer the door and bring her the*

things she needs. This has been her life for the past 13 years. Isobel was so pleased that we had decided to try again, she had heard us at the door before but had no way to let us in. Isolated from the outside world she longed for us to come back and spend time with her. When we returned her husband who had been out shopping was home and able to open the door so we could actually spend time with her.

Although this woman was physically bound to her room, her joy and peace emulated freedom. Isobel taught me that you do not have to physically walk in order to be free but in actual fact she was freer in paralysis than I was in being able to walk.

Things come relatively easy to us here in NI, but more often than not, this binds us. We cannot embrace the fullness of joy because we are constantly wrapped in self-doubt, fear, ticking off one box to work on another, we get caught up in the busyness of life, the smallest of things are the biggest of inconveniences - all of these are stealing our joy and stealing our life!

In a small one bedroomed apartment in Romania, I was reminded of a story in John 5:1-18. A man is paralysed and waiting by a pool when Jesus appears and says "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." - And the man walks - freely! That's all he had to do. Not complete a checklist of things first, not qualify to be able to walk. All he had to do was trust Jesus voice and walk.

When Jesus said those words to him, he is bound to have felt fear, bound to have doubted them but that's exactly it - those fears and doubts about everything bound him! Freedom

was right there, all he had to do was trust through the fear.

Isobel trusted Jesus voice, it didn't happen right away and her story is one that would break your heart - but although she still is unable to physically walk she now walks in freedom. She would have had fear, had doubts, after all her life totally changed the moment she stopped being able to walk, and more so after numerous other health implications, but her joy, her love, her peace shout praises of freedom over her situation. She cannot leave her room, but she

is free in Jesus, she just had to lay everything else down and trust His voice.

I was challenged by what it is in my life, what it is in our lives that we need to leave behind in order to pick up our mat and walk -

walk in freedom! Leave your fear, leave your doubt, trust His voice and walk!

Romania was not only an incredible journey to be on but to watch. As the team leader I got to watch every single member of our team fall in love with the person that God is calling them to be. As they were pushed out of their comfort zones and overcame every single challenge that they were faced with I was able to stand back and watch them own their stories; watch them fall into a reliance on God, seek Him in every situation and step fully into a full, free life that they have been called into that can only be found in God.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

***This summer we abandoned our ordinary - and we will never be the same again! 🍊***

**What it is in our lives that we need to leave behind in order to pick up our mat and walk – walk in freedom?**

# Broomhedge looks to the future



## Lester Woods

If you have driven past Broomhedge premises recently you may have had a bit of a shock to see

the hall porch knocked down and some heavy machinery at front and rear of the building. So what's going on?

We may be a small Church on the outskirts of the city of Lisburn, nevertheless it is important that we have a purpose and focus. With encouragement from the Rev Thomas Clarke the journey began early 2017 with the Church Council

looking at the way forward and undertaking a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis. The Council looked at what we as a Church were currently, what we could do better and what our vision was for the future. Following on from this our Congregational

Meeting was held in April and several members of the Church Council made presentations.

Our Mission Statement:

- " WELCOMING ALL
- " WORSHIPPING GOD
- " WITNESSING IN ACTION

was presented to our congregation and following

on from this Rev. Clarke outlined the vision for the Church family and indeed the wider community in Broomhedge.

## A vision for the future

We may be comfortable as we are, however, what about the future? The vision is to build on what

to build on this by linking the Youth Club work into the life of the congregation.

One of the strengths of our Church is that we have a faithful worshipping community and there is a strong supportive sense of fellowship within the congregation. Our praise each Sunday is led by Matthew Good. His enthusiastic approach has been a breath of fresh air. Since Matthew joined us we now have new opportunities through a music led ministry. We have a praise time each week when we learn new praise pieces and our annual Harvest and Christmas services are a highlight. Matthew has also been using the existing premises on a Wednesday afternoon to teach music. This is another way of developing contact into the local community

## Refurbishing the Hall

The Church Council recognised that to move forward we needed to undertake a refurbishment

of our Church Hall - mainly the porch area, toilet facilities, store rooms and last but by no means least the kitchen. The alternative to not doing this

was just not an option. The entire project is costing just over £100k. We would wish to acknowledge the grant support from the Methodist Church Development Board and Rank Trust. A loan from the Property Board has also been approved. Without their support this project

would not be happening. Ideally we would have wished to extend the premises at the rear of the



### Plans for new activities

One of the first things we want to explore is the introduction of a weekly Mothers & Toddlers Group. At a later date we may also look to introduce a Luncheon Club, initially on a quarterly basis.

Fundraising will be necessary and a Coffee Morning is planned for 24 November. Over the weekend 10-12 May 2019 a Flower Festival will be

held in our Church. Mrs Joan Lockhart and her team of arrangers will portray the message of 'Encounters' as told through familiar walks in the

Bible. It is also hoped to have a Tractor Run, however, a date for this has yet to be finalised.

### A work in progress

Work is now well underway and we are excited and to a degree slightly nervous. Broomhedge itself is changing and Broomhedge Methodist

welcome in our Church premises not only on a Sunday but at other activities also.

The work is expected to be completed early October and a special service to dedicate the hall

will take place on Saturday 20 October at 2.30 pm.

We are delighted that the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Billy Davison has

agreed to be with us on this special day. Our annual harvest services will take place the following day when our guest speakers will be Rev Tom Deacon (am) and Rev Chris Skillen (pm).

We look forward to seeing you over this special weekend in the history of Broomhedge Methodist Church.

In concluding we have been challenged to reach beyond our Church and Circuit to tell others about

our Church and what we do. Wouldn't it be fantastic if through our witness we could



# Visiting the USA through the Ulster Project

**Teenagers Joel Wiseman and Jake Grant from Seymour Street were able to spend a month in the USA this summer with the Ulster Project.**

**Under the sponsorship of the various American Ulster Projects, a group of teenagers, (1/2 Catholic & 1/2 Protestant; 1/2 male & 1/2 female) from their paired Northern Irish communities, come to the United States for four weeks from the end of June to the end of July. The Northern Irish teens live with host families with a teen who are of the same gender. Teens and their hosts are matched by looking at common interests & hobbies. In the following year teenagers from the USA are hosted in Northern Ireland**

**Jake Grant writes:** This summer I had an amazing experience I had with the Ulster Project Arlington, Texas. which has changed my life forever.

After travelling for 22 hours I was excited to meet my host family and my teen Matt who were all amazing. I was so hyper and tired but we had so many questions to ask each other. There were 32 teens that we were to spend every day together so you can imagine the bond we formed. Every day for the month of July had a packed schedule

After the icebreaker residential we had trips to Dallas, museums and other attractions. We attended church services at both catholic and protestant churches.

The 'Time of discovery' groups were when we had conversations about ourselves and our home community.

We discussed our religion which was very interesting and a real test of my grace as there were strong opinions within the room. It was really good fun as we were able to break down barriers and have a laugh or two about our different cultures and beliefs.

We had volunteering days in the Arlington community which were amazing. We sorted through tons of onions and through cans of food at a food bank and also clothes and household items. The onions were the worst. I helped at an animal shelter called Grand City Prairie paws which was amazing and sad. I was even interviewed on the American news. <https://youtu.be/NQnZF8jPZwQ> Here we helped with the caring of the animals.

We spent a day with St Maria Goretti Life shelter. We had a very fun day with these lovely families' lots of food, laughter, music and games. Spirit of hope was one of my favourite experiences with the community. We



**Joel**

**Jake**



had the pleasure of spending the day with children whose families who unfortunately knew poverty. This day was heart breaking - a realisation wake up day for me. We took the children to choose new shoes, we bought them some gifts, had lunch, went to amusements and played crazy golf - great fun.

I was blessed to celebrate my 16th Birthday in America with a pool party and my 32 friends around me. We had a family weekend and I was treated to a weekend in Golf Mexico and a Nasa experience. WOW!

My life has been changed, in ways I can't express in words I see people in a different way, I will always be a friend to my people. I see the love and goodness in everyone.

People have so much to give and unless you show people your love and give them your time it's difficult to receive. The Ulster Project showed me no matter what or who you are, God loves you. I have made lifelong friends both American and N Irish. I met some beautiful Christian families and look forward to seeing them again.

It was a lifetime experience which I'll never forget. One of which I have grown with God. I will be using my team building experiences within my community as I grow. I've learned so much about myself. I want to thank all my family, friends and church family who helped me in my fundraising. It wouldn't have been possible without you.



**Joel Wiseman writes:** This Summer I've had the greatest time of my life. In July, I left Northern Ireland with 11 other teens to live in Milwaukee, USA for a month as part of the Ulster Project.

I was told about the Project by our very own Michael Croft, who has participated as both a teen and a councillor over the years. I liked what he told me and so I applied to be a part of it. I found out on Christmas Day 2017 that I'd been accepted - it was the best present



ever. The first meeting with my team was probably the most awkward I'd felt all year. However, over the weeks leading up to the Project, we found that every one of us was easy to talk to and that we had loads in common with each other. We did a number of fund-raisers together which helped us form our team.

On the morning I left, I was so excited! Once I'd hugged my parents and got on the bus I never looked back. After an 18 hour journey from Belfast we arrived. It was daunting meeting my host teen, Xavier. I wasn't sure if we would get on together or not. Luckily, the moment we came face to face, we had an instant bond. We were even voted the best matched teens!

Xavier's family, the Ganfield's, consisted of father Nate, mother Tawnya, older brother Ambrose and younger sisters Ashlyn and Lauren. Right from the get go I felt like I was adopted into family life as another son because of how I was warmly received. I am so thankful for their hospitality and the love they showed me over the month.

Everyday was action packed. We went on a 2 day retreat to Wisconsin Lutheran College. This helped us to get to know each other, and was a big highlight of the month. We worked closely with many charities like packing food bags and handing supplies out



to people in need with the Salvation Army and building stock-boxes for low income seniors with Hunger Task Force. We spent time in the community, doing car washes, gardening small parks and serving in a pizza shop for a day.

I learned a lot spiritually about peace, reconciliation and unity, during our weekly Discovery sessions. Multi-cultural talks included ones by a Holocaust survivor's son and a Sikh who has partnered up with a former white supremacist to tell their stories across the world. It is so important in today's society to know about and appreciate other cultures.

It wasn't all work however! We had many pool and lake parties and BBQ's. We went to a major league baseball game, visited Chicago for a day and even went to 6 Flags amusement park!

Leaving the Americans was by far the hardest part of the trip. We had grown to know one another so much that we were inseparable, almost like family. The US organisers including our discovery leader were fantastic and did so much for us, I will never forget them. There were many tears shed and letters exchanged. It was a heartfelt but beautiful experience shared with everyone. The legacy continues as plans are already afoot for the US teens to come visit next summer. ●





# Our time at Castlerock CSSM

## James & Laura Nelson

For decades now, hundreds of children and their 'eager-to-get-a-few-hours-peace' parents have landed in Castlerock for two weeks in July. Why? For no other reason than Castlerock CSSM.

This year was no different. More than 50 leaders and nearly 300 children registered for two weeks of CSSM. The theme this year was "Who do you say I am?" The children and teenagers learnt about the different names of God through well-known stories in both the Old and New Testament. James and I were involved in the first week only and we have some incredible memories and amazing stories of children's lives turning to Christ for the first time.

This year it was somewhat more difficult for us to be 100% involved- now with two small children in tow. However, being involved as a family for some years now we are thankful to the community of people around us when

we serve there- meaning we could be free to serve on the team.

A highlight for me was watching my four-year-old son be involved in CSSM for the first time. It is just incredible how a fun-filled week of teaching the Gospel can have a lasting effect on a tiny person. He is still singing the songs from the week and asking how many days until it starts back again!

So, if you are reading this and you are wondering whether to get involved in something like CSSM as a leader, or you are thinking of sending your own children- DO IT! You have no idea the level of impact it can have on children's lives. There is nothing more beautiful than watching a child give their life to Christ.

And a BIG thank you to all who prayed and supported the work of Castlerock CSSM, and Children's summer outreach more broadly. 🍊

## From the Registers

### Seymour Street

#### BAPTISM

Lyla Beth Haywood      29a Pine Cross

#### DEATHS

Mr Joe Haywood      134 Hilden Court  
Mr Reggie Johnston      62 Roseville Park  
Elizabeth (Linda) Hall      44 Beechdene  
   Gardens

### Magheragall

#### BAPTISM

Connor Ross Stewart 29 April

#### DEATH

Rev Austin Hassard      2 June

### Dromore

#### DEATH

Mr Cecil Gracey      12 June

# CATHERINE ALLEN DEBATES IN THE EU PARLIAMENT



I was blessed with the opportunity of a lifetime this past February as I got the chance to travel to the European Parliament in Strasbourg and debate as part of Rotary's Youth Leadership Competition, which I heard about through school. During the interview stages we were asked about everything from the qualities of a leader, the work of Rotary International (thanks must go to Tom Millar for sharing his Rotary knowledge with me) and our opinions on key issues in the European Union. I was chosen to represent the Lisburn Rotary Club and progressed to the final interview, which was held in Navan, where I was delighted to be chosen as one of 24 young winners from across Ireland.

The trip took us to four cities in four countries in the space of five days - so it was a very busy week! We met in Belfast on Sunday 11th February and I quickly got to know the other young people in the group. The next day we had the chance to tour City Hall and Stormont and even ask some MLAs our questions about politics in Northern Ireland,

which was very enlightening! We travelled to Dublin that evening where we visited the European Commission to learn more about the work of the European Union. By Tuesday afternoon we were flying out to Germany to stay the night in Frankfurt, before catching a bus across the border to Strasbourg, France. All of this travelling gave us a great chance to build friendships and also to consider the topic we were told we would be debating in the Parliament. My small group of four were given the topic of Youth Unemployment, so we began to brainstorm solutions to such a real and complex issue.

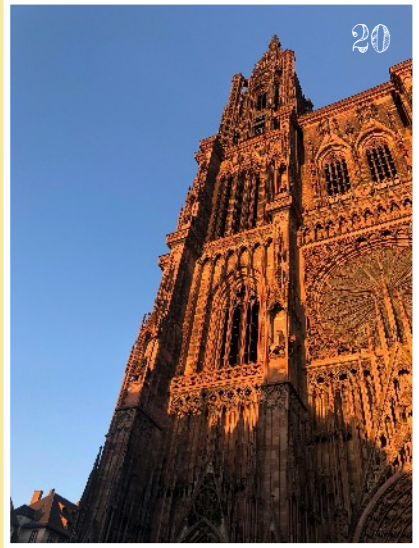
Strasbourg itself was a beautiful city and we had the opportunity on the Wednesday to explore its old town, which is home to a grand cathedral and picturesque little streets. We also got to sample a local specialty called 'Flam' - although I wasn't a fan!

All of these opportunities to learn more about leadership and make new friends quickly lead up to the main event, our Euroscola day. On the Thursday we set out early (and in the snow!) to go to the impressive European Parliament building. In the morning we had a session with French MEP Édouard Martin, where young people from all over the EU had a chance to ask him questions about the issues important to them. After lunch we split into smaller working groups, and here we had the opportunity, as a team of four, to discuss youth unemployment with other young Europeans. I found this one of the most interesting parts of the trip, as people from other countries have had very different experiences from me and it was fascinating to hear their thoughts and feelings on the



topic. Our group from Ireland proposed an updated European job seeking system named Euremex, and this idea was accepted by our working group through a majority vote. Later that afternoon, the spokesperson from our committee presented the proposal to the youth parliament as a whole in the mock plenary session we held, and I'm very proud to say that the idea was passed with a large majority!

After the excitement of our day in Parliament, we travelled home and tearfully said goodbye to each other. I can definitely say that my week with Rotary was one of the best of my life. I met many interesting and genuinely lovely young people from all across Ireland who I am now so happy to call my friends. The trip brought us so close together, and six months down the line we've kept in touch and have even had a couple of reunions! It was an amazing chance to develop my leadership, public speaking and teamwork skills, which I hope I can use to serve in my school and church. I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity through my school, the Rotary club of Lisburn and Rotary Ireland, and I am glad to have had the chance to use the skills God has blessed me with! ●



**Strazburg Cathedral**



**Louise (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with the President Rev William Davidson and the other ordinands Darrin Thompson, Cheryl Patterson, Nigel Murphy, Katherine Keyhoe and Amanda Durrell**

## Rev Lou Monroe is Ordained

The Ordination Service of the 2018 Methodist Conference took place on 17<sup>th</sup> August in St Colm's Cathedral, Londonderry, the first Cathedral built after the reformation. Louise was ordained along with five other 'Presbyters'. The President of the British Methodist Church, Rev Loraine Mellor, gave the address in which she emphasised how vital it was to stay close to God so that He is the one who influences, moulds, directs and inspires every part of our lives, helping us to break free from the constraints of the world around us. Each of us is unique and the gifts God

has given us and even our failings and weaknesses can be used to Him! Being ordained is challenging, but if we continuously 'Get it' (Loraine's words!) through our personal devotion and Christian life in fellowship with others than we can ensure that we don't burn out!

Congratulation are also due to Louise on her engagement in July to Andrew McKee from Newtownards! ●



The Newby Bridge Hotel, on the edge of Lake Windermere was the base for the Seymour Street Summer tour this year. In May a bus load of Church members and other friends set off for a week in the English Lake District. The week was blessed with the most wonderful weather, beautiful scenery, delicious food and plenty of craic and banter! (not to forget to mention the impressive singing along the way to the sweet voice of Daniel O'Donnell!!!).

The week included visits to Kendal, Keswick and Leven Hall - with its beautiful Topiary Gardens. We travelled by Steam Train from Haverthwaite to Windermere lakeside - sailing on Lake Windermere itself, with the most fabulous views aided by glorious sunshine, disembarking at Bowness. We stopped in Grasmere - of William Wordsworth fame - sadly 'a host of golden daffodils' were all gone, but the little village itself was picturesque. The bus took us on a tour up the famous 'Kirkstone Pass' and again because the weather was so good, the pass was beautiful to see and we also stopped off at Hutton-in-the-forest for lunch and a tour of the house and grounds.

The week included lots of things to see and do, we ate, laughed and sang most of the way around the area, but I think we all enjoyed every minute of it - and some even braved the swimming pool at the hotel. A great trip all round - Roll on next year!! 🟡



# The Trip

by David Haggerty

May 2018

We are off again, hark, hear them shout, the  
 Shirley tours are driving out,  
 Out of the car park, out in the street, up to the  
 M1 allor tres vite,  
 Now, off to the harbour without a slip, so  
 where's that channel crossing ship?  
 We'll find it soon and then, afloat, topped up  
 with tea and a bun Oh look out England  
 here we come,  
 Seymour Street are on their way, this time for  
 an extended stay.

Five days, my life what has she done, I'm sure  
 she'll fill them full of fun  
 The Lake District, this say's it all, full of  
 puddles  
 large and small  
 Up and down the hills we'll swoop, shops  
 aplenty and "cock-a-hoop"  
 Hand bags bulging purses dry, no one here is  
 going to cry,  
 Out in the sunshine, there'll be no rain, off  
 back  
 to the hotel again.  
 Dinner and later we'll take a chance for maybe  
 a merry little dance.

You just might think as you wave us off,  
 geriatric outing I hear you scoff,  
 Well let me tell you without restraint, quiet and  
 retiring this lot aint.  
 We will see what there is to see, nothing  
 missed and nothing saved,  
 All full of life, but well behaved  
 Four times before have I been proud, to be a  
 member of this lovely crowd  
 And this time, I'm sure will be the same as we  
 are welcomed in,  
 And then, invited back again.

The ocean with really not the slightest swell,  
 as flat as it could be,  
 Probably this was just as well as we sat with  
 the first of many cups of tea.  
 Castle Douglas and a quick stop for, guess  
 what, T and P!  
 Now the fun will really start, oh be still my  
 beating heart,

Hah, he's having so much fun, A75, M6, he  
 thinks he is in the formula one!  
 Over Shap and down the hill, in awe of the  
 mighty vista 'til  
 Another corner, the tightest squeeze but then  
 with that consummate ease  
 The hotel car park, we are here, our hotel,  
 Newby Bridge on Windermere.

Off we go again, it's time to play, no good  
 saying, I'm tired, not today,  
 Valerie's Mum and Eddie they are already  
 under way.  
 Out on the bus, sorry, coach, at break of day,  
 over the hills and far away.  
 Kendal, Keswick, train and boat, lots more tea  
 my teeth are afloat.  
 David roaring round narrow roads, an  
 enormous garden centre, stately homes,  
 Grasmere church and Wordsworth's grave  
 more tea,  
 Though just some coffee for Joan and me.

Who do we thank for all that fun? Shirley, our  
 lady who is number one,  
 Lovely and bright as she can be but not alone,  
 oh no, even she  
 Will, without reserve, tell of the sterling work,  
 done so quietly,  
 By her friend and mine, Violet, how lovely

Five days have these two ladies guided,  
 pushed and paid us through the Lakeland  
 world  
 We have seen it, been there, bought it and  
 anointed it with tea  
 So, let me hear a great big cheer for this hard  
 working three,  
 Shirley our leader, always happy as can be,  
 Violet of the purses, oh how clever and  
 generous was she.  
 David of the formula one, I would ride again  
 with he!

Finally, let us give thanks to our generous  
 LORD

For sunshine to see, health and the gift of  
 perfect camaraderie. 🍷



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisburn Boys Brigade 2018 highest achievement awards and successes

During our prize night earlier in the year, some of our young men in the company section were presented with some of the highest awards within the Boys Brigade. These awards are the Queens award and Presidents award. For these boys to achieve these it must be mentioned that without the dedication from the leaders within cabin boys, anchor boys and junior sections over the years these young men would not have grown within their faith, showing leadership and progression in this area of their lives.



Sergeants Michael Kendrew-Jones, Patrick Lynn and Alistair Grant were presented with their Queens award by Rev. Winston Good (left). This consisted of these young men working hard with much dedication in their community, Church and Boys Brigade. They also gained 14 years + in service each. Outstanding performance.

President's awards were also presented by Rev. Winston Good to Privates Joel Wiseman, Timothy Daly, Josh Grey, Adam Jordan, Reuben Sweeney and Jake Grant.

Our Company section had the pleasure entering a cricket competition within Belfast Battalion which was held at Lisburn Cricket Pavilion. It was a nail biting finish between 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisburn and 1<sup>st</sup> Granshaw, with Lisburn winning the final on the last bowl of the final over. Well done to Joel, Reuben, Josh, Scott, Dan and Ben.

## Seymour Street Methodist

**THE BOYS  
BRIGADE**  
> the adventure begins here



Returning 12<sup>th</sup> Sept

Cabin Boys (Age 3 – P1) 18:30 – 19:30

Anchor Boys (P2 – P4) 18:30 – 19:30

Junior Section (P5 – P7) 18:45 – 20:00

Returning 5<sup>th</sup> Sept

Company Section (Yr8 – Up) 19:30 – 21:30